

Variations of the Hair Patterns of the Chest of White Males

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THE basic hair patterns of the chest of white males have been named and described by the author.¹⁻⁴ They were named on the basis of the areas of the chest on which the coarse hairs occur. They total 15 in number and comprise three series. The types in the pecto-sterno-infraclavicular series are: 1) sternal, 2) infraclavicular, 3) sterno-infraclavicular, 4) pectoral, pecto-sternal, 5) pecto-infraclavicular and 6) pecto-sterno-infraclavicular. Those in the circumareolar series are: 1) circum-

areolar, 2) circumareolo-sternal, 3) circumareolo-infraclavicular and 4) circumareolo-sterno-infraclavicular. Finally, those in the circumareolo-pectoral series are: 1) circumareolo-pectoral, 2) circumareolo-pecto-sternal, 3) circumareolo-pecto-infraclavicular and 4) circumareolo-pecto-sterno-infraclavicular.

Variations of some of the hair patterns of the chest have been observed. Twenty-five of them are here reported. They comprise two groups:

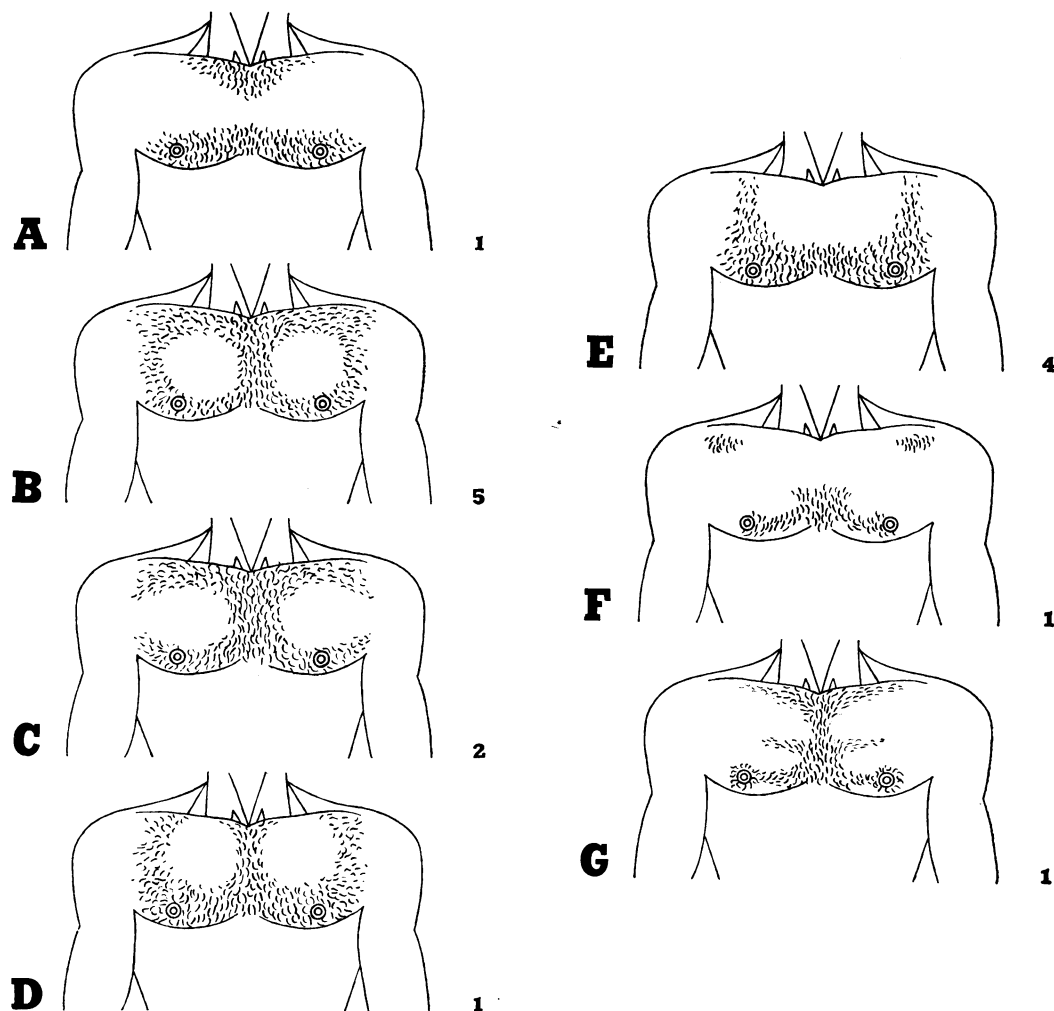


Fig. 1. Symmetrical variations of the pecto-sterno-infraclavicular chest hair patterns.

symmetrical variations and asymmetrical patterns.

SYMMETRICAL VARIATIONS

Seven distinctive symmetrical variations of the pecto-sterno-infraclavicular chest hair pattern were noted. One has the infraclavicular component separated from the pectoral and sternal by a horizontal area without terminal hair (Fig. 1A). Another not only has the infraclavicular component thus separated from the pectoral and sternal components but also has the infraclavicular divided in the midline (Fig. 1F). Some have paired circular bare areas (Setty '61) which are completely inclosed with hair (Fig. 1B) or incompletely inclosed (Fig. 1C and D), and others have a single large bib-like area without terminal hair (Fig. 1E). Finally, one has each of the pectoral components reduced to a pair of horizontally-arranged strips (Fig. 1G).

In one subject with the pecto-sternal pattern, the components are separated on both the right and left sides by a bare area approximately as wide as the sternal member (Fig. 2A). In another subject, the pecto-sternal pattern not only has the components separated but also has each pectoral reduced to a relative small patch of hair just me-

diad of the axilla (Fig. 2B). And another pecto-sternal pattern has each pectoral reduced to a horizontally-arranged strip that tapers medially (Fig. 2C).

Four variations of the pectoral pattern were seen. In one of these, the hair is essentially confined to the part of the pectoral region just caudad of the areola (Fig. 3A). In another, the hair for the most part is limited to the area immediately mediad of the areola (Fig. 3B). In still another, the hair occurs both caudad and mediad of the areola (Fig. 3C). And in one, each pectoral area of hair is essentially crescent-shaped (Fig. 3D).

Symmetrical variations were encountered in four other hair patterns of the chest. A pecto-infraclavicular has its infraclavicular component reduced to a relatively narrow strip and connected only at each end with a pectoral (Fig. 4A). A sterno-

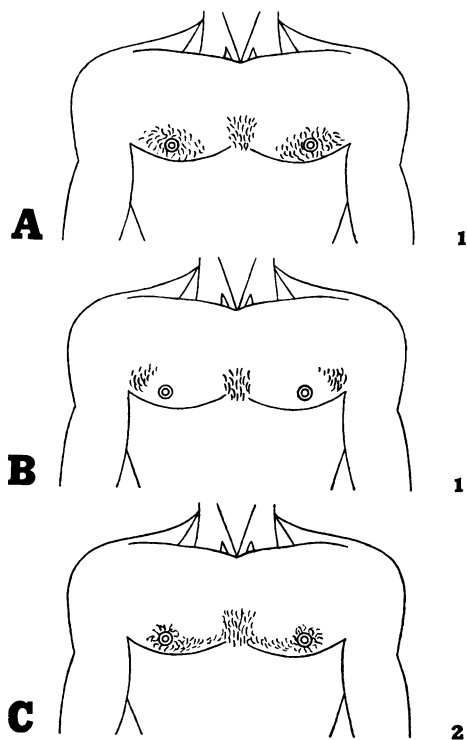


Fig. 2. Symmetrical variations of the pecto-sternal chest hair pattern.

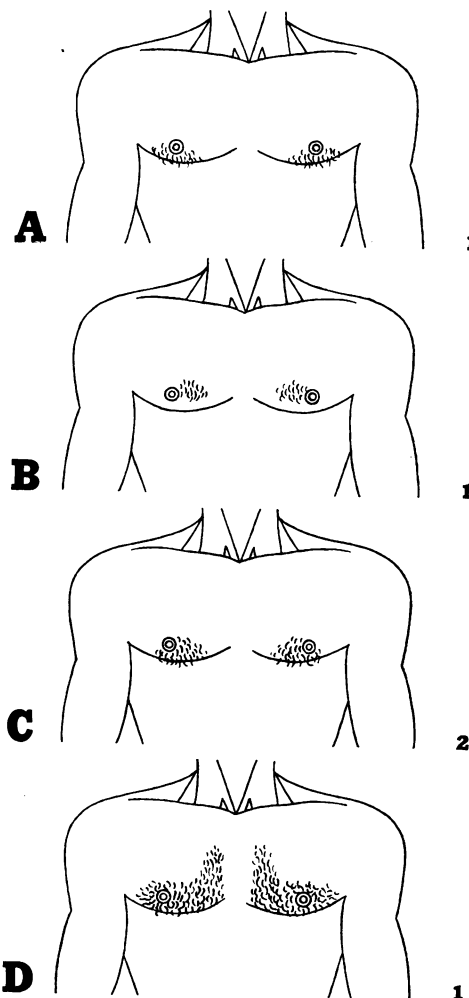


Fig. 3. Symmetrical variations of the pectoral chest hair pattern.

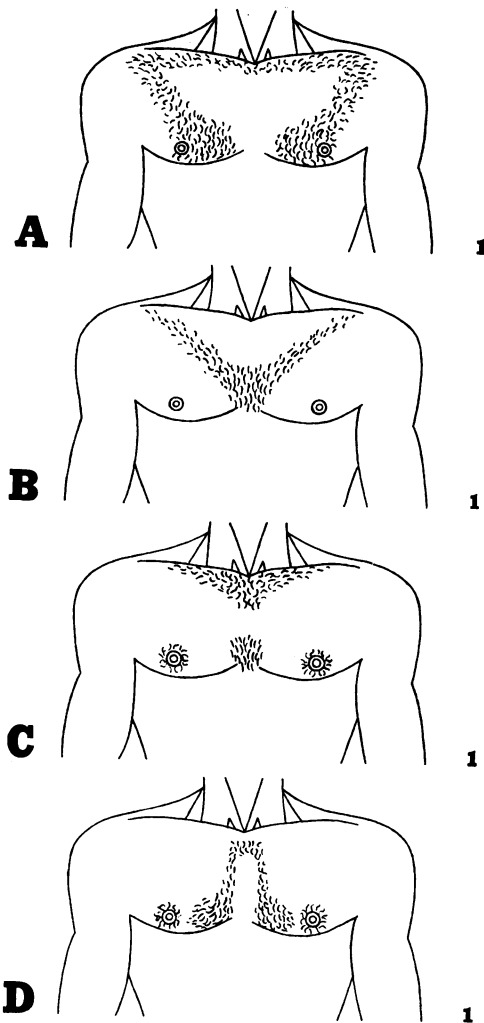


Fig. 4. Symmetrical variations of other chest hair patterns.

infraclavicular makes a large V-shaped figure in the center of the chest (Fig. 4B). A circumareolo-sterno-infraclavicular has the infraclavicular and sternal members separated by a bare area. And a circumareolo-pecto-infraclavicular has its infraclavicular component reduced to short horizontal strip about as long as the width of the sternum (Fig. 4D).

ASYMMETRICAL PATTERNS

Seven asymmetrical hair patterns of the chest were found. These are shown in Figure 5. The first is composed of two types of the pecto-sterno-infraclavicular pattern (Fig. 5A). The second has the pecto-sterno-infraclavicular pattern on one side and the sterno-infraclavicular on the other side (Fig. 5B). The third has the pecto-sternal and the circumareolo-sternal patterns (Fig. 5C); the

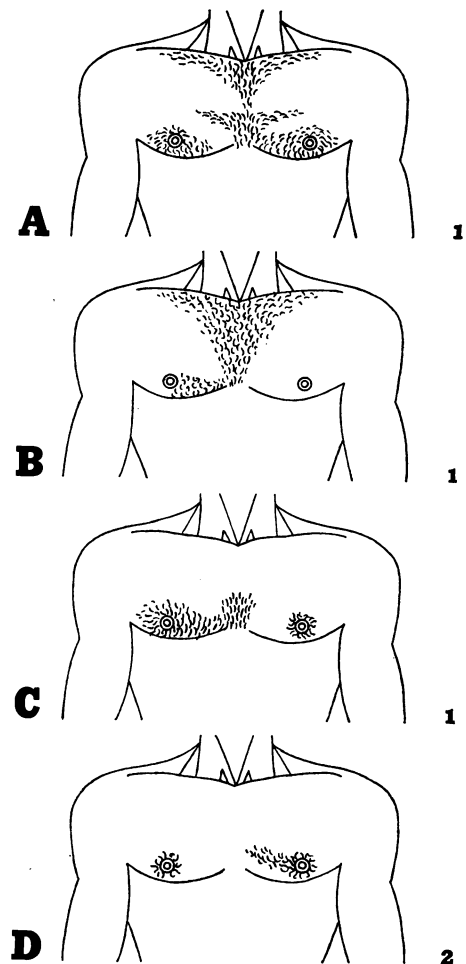


Fig. 5. Asymmetrical chest hair patterns.

fourth, the circumareolar and the pectoral (Fig. 5D); the fifth, the circumareolo-pecto-sterno-infraclavicular and the circumareolo-sterno-infraclavicular (Fig. 5E); the sixth, the pecto-infraclavicular and the circumareolo-pecto-infraclavicular (Fig. 5F); and the seventh, the circumareolar and apilosity.

FREQUENCY OF VARIATIONS

The number accompanying the drawing of each of the different kinds of variations (Figs. 1-5) indicates the number of subjects in which the variation occurs in a total of 1400 men of age range of 17 through 80 years.

The chest hair pattern showing the greatest number of variations is the pecto-sterno-infraclavicular. It also shows the greatest number of kinds of variations. These two facts are to be expected since the pecto-sterno-infraclavicular is the most common of the types of chest hair patterns.

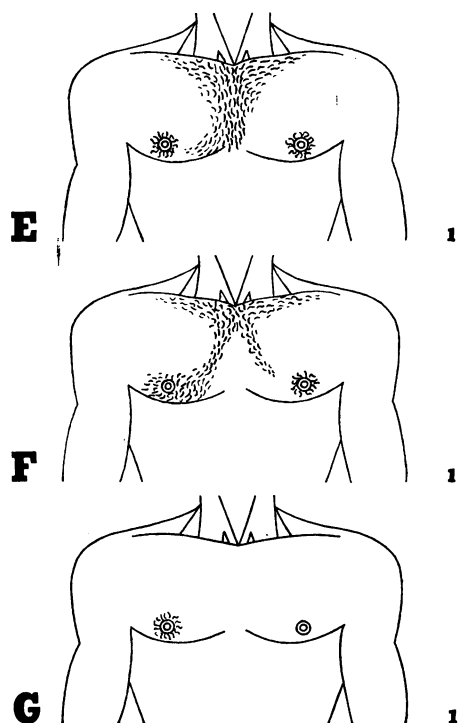


Fig. 5

SUMMARY

In the series of investigations of which this report is a part, hair patterns of the anterior surface of the chest have been described in relation to their topographical locations. The regions concerned have been the pectoral, sternal, infraclavicular and circumareolar. Patterns involving two or more of these regions have been designated by combining the regional terms through hyphenation. For example, pecto-sterno-infraclavicular denotes a pattern covering all three of the regions named.

An examination of 1400 adult males revealed

15 basic hair patterns on the chest. The incidence of these was as follows: 24 sternal, 7 infraclavicular, 2 sterno-infraclavicular, 69 pectoral, 181 pecto-sternal, 22 pecto-infraclavicular, 795 pecto-sterno-infraclavicular, 90 circumareolar, 75 circumareolo-sternal, 21 circumareolo-infraclavicular, 27 circumareolo-sterno-infraclavicular, 1 circumareolo-pectoral, 1 circumareolo-pecto-sternal, 1 circumareolo-pecto-infraclavicular, 1 circumareolo-pecto-sterno-infraclavicular and 83 apilose.

After an examination of 2100 adult males, attention was directed to the variations presented in some of the basic patterns. Descriptions of these form the present report. The variations are both symmetrical and asymmetrical.

Symmetrical variations occur in the following hair patterns of the chest of white males: pecto-sterno-infraclavicular, pecto-sternal, pectoral, pecto-infraclavicular, sterno-infraclavicular, circumareolo-sterno-infraclavicular and circumareolo-pecto-infraclavicular. The pecto-sterno-infraclavicular surpasses the other chest hair patterns not only in the number of varieties but also in the incidence.

Asymmetrical hair patterns of the chest also occur. Most of these are composed of one kind of basic hair pattern on one side and another kind of basic hair pattern on the opposite side.

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